

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

January 30, 2001 LB 166

opposition has made it a big deal and I welcome that, because they say that those who intend to drive are...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR KRUSE: ...going to drink a lot less. May it be so. We can save lives, we can save pain and injury, we can save dollars. I'm not talking about highway dollars. That's just peanuts. Our son's public bill will be five million dollars. A teenager in Omaha's public bill, part of our General Fund money, will be \$20 million. Wouldn't you like to have about a dozen of those persons get together and turn their money over to the teachers' salaries or something like that? It's time to do it.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Kruse. Further debate on the advancement of LB 166? Senator Hudkins, you're recognized to close.

SENATOR HUDKINS: Thank you, Mr. President. One argument that the opposition gave us in the committee was that .08 is a mandatory standard. Well, actually, the .10 was a mandatory standard, as was the original standard .15. But during the...the 1960s and seventies, there were a number of epidemiological studies and pharmacological studies that showed there was a direct positive relationship between driver BAC and crash risk, and that research, along with improvements in testing, caused most states to lower their .15 to .10. Well, many more recent studies have concluded that the driving ability is actually impaired at much lower levels, at .03 or .04 or .05. We're not asking for that. We're asking for .08. There won't be roadblocks set up. Drivers will be stopped if they show signs of impaired driving, just the same way that it is now at .10. Ultimately, Nebraska is going to adopt a .08 standard if for no other reason than the federal funds that we've talked about before. But there's a far better reason to adopt .08 and that is it saves lives, and that's what I think we all want to do. So I would appreciate your support on advancing this bill to Select File. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Hudkins. The question is the advancement of LB 166. Those in favor vote aye; those